

Appendix A

**Draft Letter of Intent
&
Letters of Support**



CITY HALL
33530 1st Way South
PO Box 9718

(253) 661-4000
Federal Way, WA 98063-9718

September 3, 2002

Colonel Ralph Graves, District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineer
Seattle District – CENPS-EN-PL
P.O. Box 3755
Seattle, WA 98124-3755

Dear Colonel Graves:


The purpose of this letter is to express the City of Federal Way's support for the Puyallup Watershed General Investigation Study for Ecosystem Restoration and Flood Damage Reduction.

The City of Federal Way's primary interest in the project is to address flooding and salmon habitat issues within the Hylebos Creek subbasin of the Puyallup River. The Hylebos Creek was once a major tributary to the Puyallup estuary. The Hylebos Creek system is composed of 18,361 acres and over 25 miles of streams, five lakes, and over 30 identified wetlands. The watershed has undergone significant development over the past 50 years and the ability of the Hylebos Creek system to function properly for flood retention and aquatic habitat needs has greatly diminished. The City of Federal Way is committed to working on these issues and welcomes the support of the Ecosystem Restoration and Flood Damage Reduction project to help address these concerns.

We have reviewed the reconnaissance 905(b) report and understand there is a federal interest in pursuing a cost-shared feasibility study. The City of Federal Way has a strong local interest in moving forward with this study and ultimately project construction. We understand that Pierce County will be acting as the official non-federal sponsor and the City of Federal Way is committed to supporting the Corps and the County as the study moves forward.

We look forward to working in partnership with the Corps of Engineers on this high priority watershed project. Please contact me at (253) 661-4135 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Paul A. Bucich, P. E.
Surface Water Manager

c: Debbie Hyde, Special Project Coordinator, Pierce County
Cary Roe, Public Works Director, City of Federal Way
Leslie Ryan-Connelly, ESA/NPDES Coordinator, City of Federal Way

December 20, 2002

Colonel Ralph Graves, District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineer
Seattle District – CENPS-EN-PL
P.O. Box 3755
Seattle, WA 98124-3755

Dear Colonel Graves:

The purpose of this letter is to express Pierce County's support for the Puyallup Basin General Investigation Study for Ecosystem Restoration and Flood Damage Reduction and to express our intent to enter into a cost-sharing agreement to pursue feasibility studies and ultimately project construction.

We have reviewed the reconnaissance 905(b) report and are in agreement with the findings. We understand there is a federal interest in pursuing a cost-shared feasibility study to further investigate the viability of implementing projects to restore the ecosystem and reduce flood damages in the basin. As conveyed by this letter, there is also a strong non-federal interest in moving forward with this study and ultimately project construction. Pierce County is willing to act as the lead non-federal sponsor. In this role, Pierce County will work with Corps of Engineers staff over the next several months to refine the scope of necessary studies to be conducted during the cost-shared feasibility phase. We understand that once the feasibility studies are defined, agreed to and documented in a Project Management Plan (PMP), we will be asked to sign a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA). We understand that the preliminary feasibility study cost, as reported in the 905(b), has been estimated at approximately \$4 million dollars over a four period. We further understand that the first year's effort has been estimated at \$400,000, and that the non-federal share is 50%. Pierce County intends to meet this requirement through provision of in-kind services and a cash contribution. Pierce County is also working with King County, the Puyallup Tribe of Indians and various municipal jurisdictions in the region to support the feasibility effort. We are excited about the opportunity to resolve watershed issues, which will benefit both our jurisdiction and the region as a whole.

We look forward to working in partnership with the Corps of Engineers on this high priority watershed project. Please contact Debby Hyde at (253) 798-7710 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



City of Puyallup

Public Works Department

218 W. Pioneer, Puyallup, WA 98371
253.841.5485 Voice/253.840.6678 Fax

October 8, 2002

Colonel Ralph Graves, District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineer
Seattle District – CENPS-EN-PL
P.O. Box 3755
Seattle, WA 98124-3755

Dear Colonel Graves:

The purpose of this letter is to express the City of Puyallup's support for the Puyallup Watershed General Investigation Study for Ecosystem Restoration and Flood Damage Reduction.

Given its geographic location, the City of Puyallup is obviously affected by flooding, erosion, and water quality/quantity issues that occur in the Puyallup watershed. Understanding the interrelationships between ecosystem restrictions and flood damage prevention is very important to the long-term quality of life in the City.

We have reviewed the reconnaissance 905(b) report and understand there is a federal interest in pursuing a cost-shared feasibility study. As conveyed by this letter, there is also a strong non-federal interest in moving forward with this study and ultimately project construction. As a non-federal entity we are excited about the opportunity to resolve watershed issues, which will benefit both our jurisdiction and the region as a whole. We understand that Pierce County will be acting as the official non-federal sponsor and our jurisdiction is committed to supporting the Corps and the County as the study moves forward.

We look forward to working in partnership with the Corps of Engineers on this high priority watershed project. Please contact me at 253.841.5491 if you have any questions.

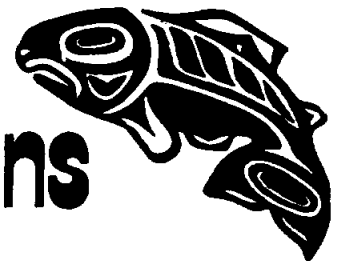
Very truly yours,

Tom Heinecke, PE
Public Works Director
City of Puyallup

cc: Jim Bacon, Puyallup City Manager
Debby Hyde, Pierce County Special Projects Coordinator
Dan Repp, Puyallup Stormwater Engineer



Puyallup Tribe of Indians



April 12, 2001

Colonel Ralph Graves
Attn: PM-PL
Seattle District USACE
PO Box C-3755
4735 East Marginal Way South
Seattle, WA 98124-3755

RE: Request for General Investigation New Start

Dear Colonel Graves:

The Puyallup Tribe of Indians is asking the Army Corps of Engineers to initiate a General Investigations new start process for the Puyallup River watershed (WRIA 10). The Tribe believes that the Corps' involvement including design, engineering, construction and funding is vital toward achieving meaningful and effective restoration within the lower Puyallup River. As such, we are requesting the Corps initiate the necessary internal actions to proceed with this process.

As you are probably aware, the Puyallup River has been highly impacted through a variety of projects designed to provide flood reduction benefits to the valley and surrounding communities. Much of the present day infrastructure was legislated following the avulsion of the White River into the Puyallup River in 1906. Beginning in 1914, the Inter County River Improvement District initiated a number of projects including channel dredging, channel straightening, wood removal, and the construction of revetments and levees.

Today, over 45 miles of the Puyallup, White and Carbon Rivers are confined by levees. The present channel configuration contributes toward a number of insidious affects upon the fisheries resource. Vast areas of off-channel rearing including wetlands, oxbow lakes and tributary streams have been isolated as a result of levee construction. Such habitats provide an essential link in the life-history requirements of salmonid fishes. Additionally, straightened river channels result in increased water velocity which is artificially concentrated in a limited flood zone. This situation imparts a harmful degree of scour on the bed and banks of the river which in turn impairs successful spawning and redd (nest) survival and is damaging to the supportive characteristics of the river environment.

For decades gravel mining and the removal of large wood debris from within the high flow channel was performed annually. More, recently, permitting restrictions

Colonel Ralph Graves
August 28, 2002
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King County wholly supports this opportunity in conjunction with the Corps, Tribes and other river basin partners to resolve watershed issues affecting local, watershed and regional resources. If you have any questions or requests for information, please contact Dave Clark, Manager, Flood Hazard Reduction Services, Water and Land Resources Division at (206) 296-8388 or Jeanne Stypula, White River Coordinator, at (206) 296-8380.

Sincerely,



Pam Bissonnette
Director

PB:zg

cc: Patricia Robinson, Project Manager, Planning Branch, Seattle District Corps of Engineers
Debby Hyde, Pierce County Special Project Coordinator, Executive Office
Dave Clark, Manager, Flood Hazard Reduction Section (FHRS), Water and Land
Resources Division (WLRD), Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)
Jeanne Stypula, White River Coordinator, FHRS, WLRD, DNRP

promulgated by the Endangered Species Act have curtailed such actions. Flood prevention activities are now focused primarily on the maintenance of existing facilities. Additionally, Pierce County has expanded their floodplain acquisition program to reduce the incidence of repetitive losses to homes and property. Thanks to these efforts more than 400-acres of former developable property has been purchased by the County and now serves as floodplain.

Declines in a number of salmon stocks have prompted greater consideration of habitat impacts and much higher level of inter-agency coordination. This scrutiny has lead to the development of stock recovery plans, limiting factors analyses, several ongoing basin planning efforts and a variety of enhancement funding opportunities such as the Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant cycle process.

The Tribe has previously identified a number of restoration opportunities that could be implemented assuming that sufficient funding, engineering and construction expertise were available. Undoubtedly, there are many other sites and concepts applicable to the Puyallup River system that have not yet been identified and/or developed. Clearly, this is where the Corps of Engineers comes in. The sheer magnitude of the necessary corrective actions singularly qualifies such an endeavor to only one entity.

The Tribe's goal is the restoration of the habitat and processes characteristic of a properly functioning river environment. It is our belief that such an endeavor can only be accomplished via the Corps' assistance. The Corps' involvement would be a very effective way of implementing the United States' trust responsibility to Indian tribes including the Puyallup Tribe.

The Tribe recognizes that the General Investigations program is a long-term process; which is precisely the reason we must initiate it now. We ask for your support and cooperation toward the successful implementation of true ecosystem restoration. The Puyallup Tribe looks forward to working with the Corps in this effort as part of the Tribe's ongoing program of protecting and enhancing the watershed and its habitat. Additionally, the Puyallup Tribe is ready to assist the Corps in whatever way it may to ensure that this program is a success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Herman Dillon Sr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Herman Dillon Sr., Council Chairman
Puyallup Tribe of Indians

Cc: Norm Dicks
Maria Cantwell
Jennifer Dunn

Patty Murray
Adam Smith
John Ladenburg



King County

**Department of
Natural Resources and Parks**

Director's Office

King Street Center

201 South Jackson Street, Suite 700

Seattle, WA 98104-3855

August 28, 2002

Colonel Ralph Graves, District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineer
Seattle District – CENPS-EN-PL
P.O. Box 3755
Seattle, WA 98124-3755

Dear Colonel Graves:

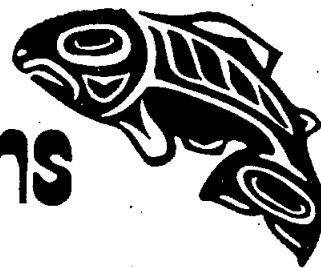
King County is interested in working with the U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Puyallup and Muckleshoot Indian Tribes, Pierce County, and local governments on the Puyallup/White River Basin General Investigation Study for Ecosystem Restoration and Flood Damage Reduction.

As one of the original local sponsors for the Corps' Mud Mountain Dam on the White River, King County has taken an active role in floodplain management and flood damage reduction actions. We wish to continue our efforts in a collaborative and comprehensive manner with other jurisdictions to approach flood hazard reduction and ecosystem restoration on a watershed scale. King County has made salmon conservation a priority and has incorporated an ecosystem approach as a guiding principle in King County's response to Endangered Species Act (ESA) listings of Puget Sound chinook, bull trout and other declining fish populations. The General Investigation Study for Ecosystem Restoration and Flood Damage Reduction in the Puyallup/White River Basin provides local communities with the opportunity to conserve our significant natural resources while protecting our watershed residents from flood hazards.

We have reviewed the draft Reconnaissance 905(b) Report and understand that a federal interest exists to pursue a cost-shared Feasibility Study. King County has an interest in jointly sponsoring that portion of the study that is related to the White River. We would also expect to participate in jointly sponsoring the implementation of ecosystem restoration and flood damage reduction projects located in King County that would be forthcoming from the Feasibility Study. We are agreeable to working with Pierce County, which is acting as the principle sponsor, to develop appropriate interagency agreements that clarify local responsibilities and financial contributions.



Puyallup Tribe of Indians



October 10, 2002

Colonel Ralph Graves, District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineer
Seattle District – CENPS-EN-PL
P.O. Box 3755
Seattle, WA 98124-3755

Dear Colonel Graves:

The purpose of this letter is to express the Puyallup Tribe's support for the Puyallup Watershed General Investigation Study for Ecosystem Restoration and Flood Damage Reduction.

The Puyallup River has seen many dramatic transformations since the beginning of European Settlement. Early flood control efforts have had a significant impact on stream channel conditions and fisheries habitat suitability. The Tribe is hopeful that the Corp's Ecosystem Restoration Program can help rectify past damages and restore lost productivity.

We have reviewed the reconnaissance 905(b) report and understand there is a federal interest in pursuing a cost-shared feasibility study. As conveyed by this letter, there is also a strong Tribal interest in moving forward with this study and ultimately project construction. As a Tribal entity we are excited about the opportunity to identify and correct watershed issues, which will benefit both our jurisdiction and the region as a whole. We understand that Pierce County will be acting as the official non-federal sponsor and our jurisdiction is committed to supporting the Corps and the County as the study moves forward.

We look forward to working in partnership with the Corps of Engineers on this high priority watershed project. Please contact Russ Ladley at Tribal Fisheries (253) 845-9225 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Bill Sterud, Chairman
Puyallup Tribal Council